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Charles Frederick Read (1862-1950) and his family

by Francis Howcutt

Violet, Charles Frederick & Mary Annie Read

Charles Frederick Read and his family v01
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Introduction

This paper sets out the history of my great grandfather Charles Frederick Read, his forebears on the Read line and other close relations. It includes evidence that even before the advent of the railways London attracted fresh residents from quite long distances and points to the benefits for some of access to medical services as a result of working for wealthy employers and the role of almshouses in providing homes for some of the elderly. There is also evidence of the overcrowding and economic fragility of the poorer inhabitants of Victorian London and the anguish of infant mortality.

Thank you to:

- The National Archives, Royal Berkshire Archives, Hampshire Archives and The London Archives (City of London Corporation) for curating and making available parish registers and other historical documents.
- Internet Archive, the National Library of Scotland and FamilySearch for making freely available online digitised versions of books, maps and other resources.
- Vision of Britain.org.uk which freely provides a vast amount of historical material, much of which is copyright of the Great Britain Historical GIS Project and the University of Portsmouth.
- FreeBMD for transcribing and making freely available indexes of births, marriages and deaths registered in England & Wales.
- My grandmother Amelia Mary Annie Read, later Dalby, and my mother Eileen Gladwys Dalby, later Howcutt, for their encouragement and sharing recollections. For brevity, my grandmother is sometimes referred to in the text by her nickname "Millie". Similarly, Charles Frederick Read is sometimes simply referred to as "Charles".
- Mrs Stevens, formerly of Beeston's Almshouses, for sharing her memories of the Read family.
- Philip Scott for providing the photograph of Ivan and Winifred Mears.

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The distances between places mentioned in the text are the shortest walking distances.

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2 November 2024
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[1] https://web.archive.org/

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John & Ann Read – great grandparents

In the 18th century, Newbury was a market town equipped with numerous inns that also served as a stopping point on the busy road from London to Bath. Its population was recorded as 3,732 in a census taken by Anthony Woodroffe, clerk of the parish of Newbury, after the small pox distemper of 1767-8 in which 120 inhabitants had died.[2] By the time of the 1801 census, the population had increased to 4,275. For a settlement of its size, Newbury was well-endowed with almshouses. These included St Bartholomew's Hospital, Jemmetts almshouses and Church almshouses in which some members of the Read family lived at various stages.

Much information about the area can be found on the 'Newbury History' website.[3]

The bulk of the present structure of St Nicholas parish church dates from the early 16th century. It was the venue for numerous events in the history of the Read family and is shown in the picture below.[4]

John and Ann Read were first recorded in Newbury parish register when their sons John and Thomas (who were not twins) were baptised there on 20 August 1775. It is not known whether John and Ann were related to the other residents of Newbury with the Read surname (apart from their own descendants) who were recorded in the parish register during the latter part of the 18th century and subsequently.

No record has been found at Newbury of John and Ann's marriage. The clues pointing to their possible origins are circumstantial. The burial record for John (the husband of Ann) states he was a shoemaker, which would be consistent with him being the same person as John Read who was described in the parish register as a cordwainer (i.e. shoemaker) when he married Anne Day at Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hampshire on 12 September 1772. John signed the register and Anne made her mark.

[2] Royal Berkshire Archives: D/EX1718/7/3.
[3] http://www.newburyhistory.co.uk/
[4] The picture of St Nicholas Newbury by Barry Skeates via Wikimedia Commons is licensed under the terms of CC BY 2.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

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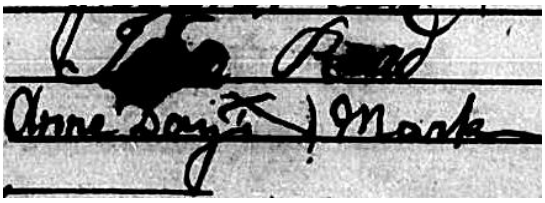

The marriage took place by licence nearly six months before 3 March 1773 which Newbury parish register records as having been the birth date of the oldest of John and Ann's offspring who was baptised there.

Sherfield-on-Loddon is a village some 17 miles south-east of Newbury and five miles north-east of the centre of Basingstoke. The parish church is basically medieval but was substantially altered in the 19th century.[5] In 1801, the population of the parish stood at 494. It is almost certain that the woman who married John Read there in 1772 was the same person as Ann, the '*baseborn daughter of Alice Day*' who had been born on 20 March and baptised on 20 April 1753 at Sherfield-on-Loddon and was not buried there as an infant. The baptism of that child took place almost 73 years before 18 February 1826 when Ann Read was buried at Newbury with her age recorded as 75 in the burial register. The date of birth contained in the Sherfield-on-Loddon register is even more closely consistent with the age of 63 that was recorded during her lifetime for Ann, the wife of John Read, by the census of Newbury on 7 June 1815.[6]

When John Read married, he was recorded as resident in the parish of Sherfield-on-Loddon. However, no suitable baptism entry for him appears in in its parish register. His occupation as a cordwainer provides some help in identifying his possible origins. Masters were normally required to pay stamp duty when they took on an apprentice. Details of the apprenticeship, premium and duty to be paid were recorded in apprenticeship books. FindMyPast's index to those books includes six people in England with the name John Read who were apprenticed to a cordwainer during 1710-1772:

Year	Apprentice	Master	Master's place	Miles
1752	John Reed	Francis Cooper	Kirdford, Sussex	40
1753	John Read	Norman Triplow	Somersham, Hunts.	98
1755	John Rede	Thomas Withers	Derby	125
1758	John Read	Joseph Aves	Great Yeldham, Essex	98
1761	John Reeder	Joseph Smith	Ravensthorpe, Northants.	83
1762	John Read	William Croucher	'*Mitcheldown, Southton*'	17

('*Miles*' is the distance of the relevant Master's place from Sherfield-on-Loddon)

'Mitcheldown' presumably means Micheldever, a place some seven miles north of Winchester. In view of the relative closeness of Micheldever to Sherfield-on-Loddon, by far the strongest candidate of the six apprentices to be the groom in 1772 is the one whose master was William Croucher and whose term ran for seven years from 15 May 1762, with the premium paid to

[5] Historic England: St Leonard, Shefield on Loddon.
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1092816?section=official-list-entry
[6] Royal Berkshire Archives: D/EX1718/7/3.

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the master being £7.10.0d.[7] The date of the agreement is 59 years prior to the burial of John Read aged 76 at Newbury in June 1821, indicating that if he were the same person and if that age is accurate the apprentice would have been about 17 years old when his term began. This rather high age suggests that John Read at Newbury may actually have been somewhat younger than the ages that were recorded for him in 1815 and 1821. On balance, it is probable but not certain that the references to 'John Read' in the apprenticeship (1762), the marriage (1772) and as the father of children baptised at Newbury from 1775 onwards all relate to the same individual.

No evidence has been found that definitely relates to the birth, baptism or parentage of John Read who was apprenticed in 1762. However, it is quite feasible that he came from Hampshire with a baptism recorded in one of its parish registers. Appendix A reviews the baptisms found in Hampshire that may be relevant.

John and Ann Read had ten children baptised at Newbury:

	Born/Baptised*	Married	Died/Buried*
John	1773 & 1775*	n/a	1780* Newbury
Thomas	1775		
Joseph	1777		
Mary	1780*	Thomas Pegg 1800 James Walter 1820	1837* Newbury
Ann	1783*		
John	1786	Mary Allen 1806	1863 Berkshire
George	1790	Mary Wade 1814	1838 Marylebone
Milly	1792*		
Daniel	1794*	Elizabeth Friet Langford 1818	1871 Newbury
Martha	1797	William Archer 1819	

For at least some of the time John had difficulty making ends meet; the record of his son's baptism in 1790 includes the note '*parish pauper*'. The accounts of the overseers of the poor for the Borough of Newbury record in great detail payments made to paupers and relevant suppliers. Three enormous volumes survive, covering the periods 1771-1775, 1781-1787 and 1799-1805. They proved far too extensive for the author to check in full for Read references but the following records have been extracted.[8]

- During 1799-1805, there are numerous records of varying payments to John Read, sometimes also mentioning his 'family' or 'child' (not named) in the description. This suggests that a particular child may have been particularly needy.
- Payments of 1s 6d a week to '*Read Joseph Dragoon Child*' in 1802 and 1803; also to '*Read Dragoons Wife*' in 1803 and 1804. Joseph was presumably the son of John and Ann who had been born in 1777. It has not been established which Dragoon regiment he served in. Nor has a record been found of his marriage or the names of his wife and child been positively identified.

[7] The National Archives: IR1/23. It is likely that the master on that occasion was the same person as William, son of John Croucher, who had been apprenticed to William Gale of New Alresford, a cordwainer, on 24 June 1741 for a term of seven years.
[8] Royal Berkshire Archives: N/AP3/1-3.

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In 1815, Joseph Toomer, the Mayor of Newbury, conducted a census of all 5,309 of its inhabitants.[9] This took place between 20 May and 9 June. 20 of the individuals recorded had the Read surname. They were resident in 12 different households, which are listed in full in Appendix B. John Read (aged 70) & Ann Read (63) were living in one of the almshouses at Fair Close. Their children (whose names are shown below in bold) who were present at Newbury at the time of the census were:

- **Mary Pegg** was living at the 'Bull & Dog', City with her husband Thomas and her sister **Martha Read** as well as nine-year-old Thomas Read who was presumably a grandson of John & Ann.
- **John Read** was living at the west side of Newtown Lane with his wife Mary and their children Amelia and Mary Ann.

'The City' was the name given to the area in the southern part of the town centred on St Bartholomew's Hospital, including Argyle Road and Derby Road. 'The Bull & Dog' public house stood in Derby Road.[10]

John and Ann remained at Newbury for the rest of their lives. Their burials were recorded in the parish register as:

- 16 June 1821 - John Read, aged 76, a shoemaker of Jemmetts almshouses Newbury.[11]
- 18 February 1826 - Ann Read, aged 75, a widow and almswoman of St Bartholomew's hospital Newbury.[12]

St Bartholomew hospital almshouses[13]

[9] Royal Berkshire Archives: D/EX1718/7/3.
[10] West Berkshire Historic Environment Record: The City, Newbury.
https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWB16149&resourceID=1030
[11] The complicated history of Jemmetts almshouses is discussed by Historic England in one of its Research Records:
https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=233144&resourceID=19191
[12] Illustrated histories of St Bartholomew's Hospital and Lower Raymond's Almshouses can be found on the website of Newbury Almshouse Trust:
https://www.newburyalmshouses.org/our-houses
[13] Picture by Tom Bastin via Wikimedia Commons and licensed under the terms of CC BY 2.0
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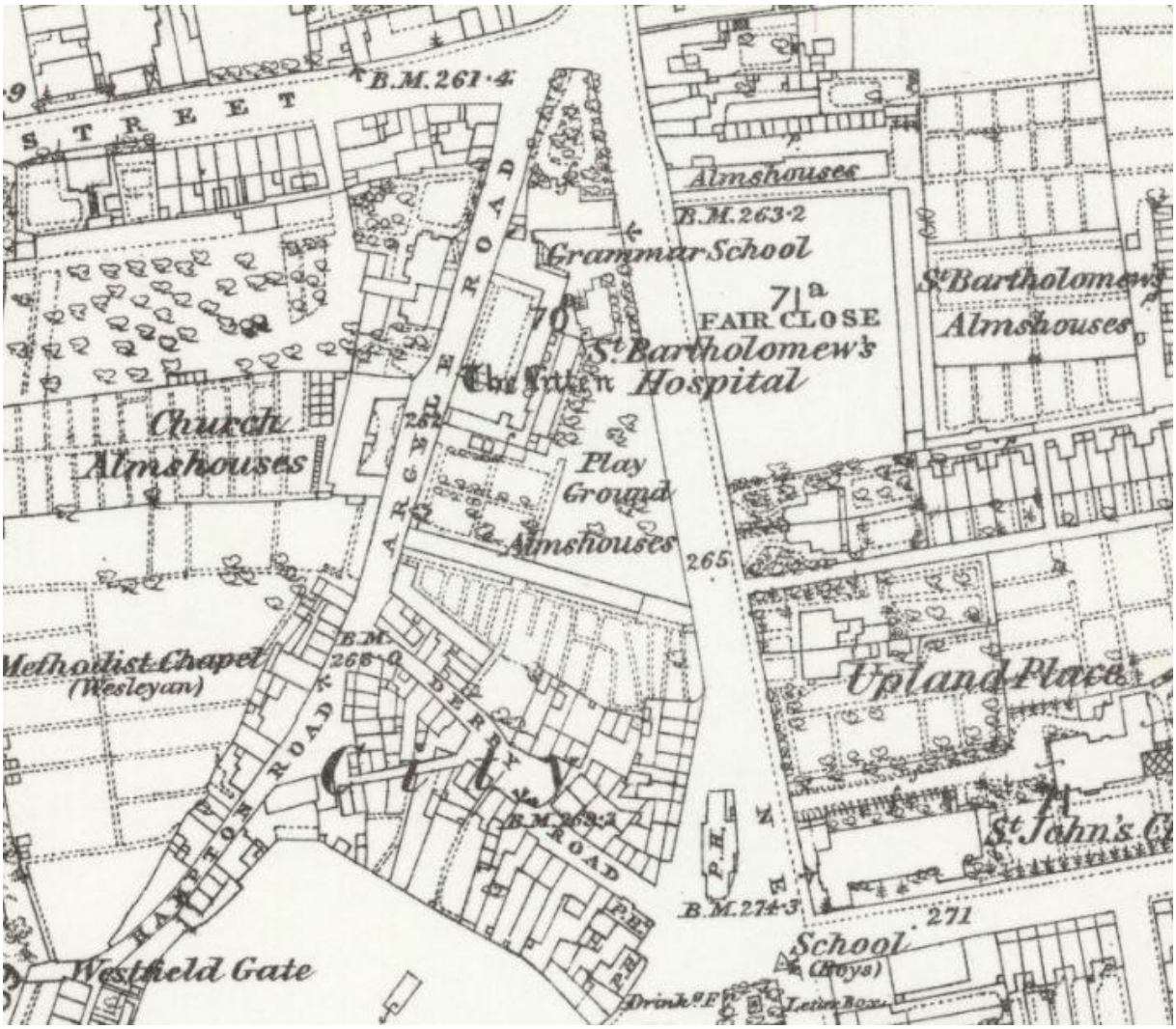
The following extract from the 1877 Ordnance Survey map shows the proximity to each other of Fair Close, Derby Road, St Bartholomew's Hospital and Church Almshouses.[14]



[14] https://maps.nls.uk/view/104198443

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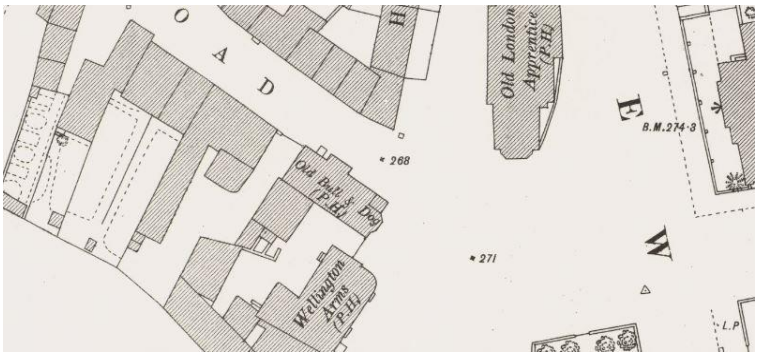
Mary Read (1780-1837) – great aunt

Mary, daughter of John & Ann Read, was baptised at Newbury on 12 September 1780. Newbury parish register records the burial on 23 March 1793 of *'Mary Read, daughter of John*'. However, the first name recorded for this child appears to be a mistake for John's daughter Milly who had been baptised about seven months earlier. The reasoning for this is that Mary Read married Thomas Pegg at Newbury on 1 December 1800 and they were recorded in the 1815 census of Newbury as living with John & Ann's daughter Martha, the 'supposed age' of Mary Pegg being stated in that source as 33 years.

Newbury parish register records the marriage on 1 December 1800 at Newbury of Thomas Pegg, bachelor, a sojourner in this parish, & Mary Read, spinster of this parish (who made her mark in the register). The wedding took place after banns had been called and the witnesses were John Cumnor, John Walsh & John Wheatley. The only records found of a child of Thomas and Mary relate to their daughter Mary Ann who was baptised at Newbury on 26 July 1809 – 24 days after she was born. On 9 June 1810, the child was buried at Newbury, having died of a fever. Thomas Pegg was the landlord of the '*Bull & Dog*' in June 1815 (see Appendix B). This public house was used for mayor-making ceremonies in the early 19th century.[15]



The 'Bull & Dog' in 1878[16]

Thomas was described as a publican of Bartholomew Street aged 49 when he was buried at Newbury on 23 February 1818.

On 22 April 1820 James Walter, a widower of Woolhampton, married Mary Pegg, widow, of Newbury at her parish church. Again, Mary inscribed a mark rather than signing her name in the register. The witnesses were Daniel Challis, Elizabeth Challis & Henry Gough. The marriage was by licence. Only one child has been identified from this union – Mary Walter who was born on 2 December 1822 and baptised on 10 January of the following year. Newbury had two sets of baptism registers at that stage – the more informative of them records the home of the family as '*Top of Bartholomew Street*'. James Walter was recorded as 58 years old when he was buried at Newbury on 12 May 1830. Mary evidently continued his business as when she was buried there on 3 March 1837, the register described her as a widow and publican of Bartholomew Street. Her age recorded as 56 aligns well with her baptism date in 1780.

[15] West Berkshire Historic Environment Record: Site of the Old Bull and Dog, Derby Road, Newbury. https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWB20701&resourceID=1030
[16] https://maps.nls.uk/view/231275595

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John Read (1786-1863) – great uncle

When John, the son of John & Ann Read, was baptised at Newbury on 3 March 1790, he was nearly four years old, having been born on 5 March 1786.

On 18 August 1806, he married Mary Allen at Newbury. Both were stated to be of Newbury and both made their marks in the parish register. Their children whose births or burials are recorded in Newbury parish register were:

	Born	Married	Died/buried*
Amelia	1810	George Shuff James Paddick 1843	1867* St George Hanover Square
Mary Ann	1812		
Sarah	1816		
Daniel		n/a	1818* Newbury
Joseph	1819	n/a	1820* Newbury
John	1821	Sarah Oram 1845	
Amelia	1826		

Toomer's census of Newbury in 1815 listed a household on the west side of Newtown Lane consisting of John Read aged 28, a shoemaker, Mary Read aged 26, Amelia Read aged 6 and Mary Ann Read aged 3.[17] The burial of John and Ann's son Daniel in 1818 is recorded in the parish register and also in a draft register. The latter adds the phrase '*top of Bw Street*', presumably meaning the family were then living at the top of Bartholomew Street. There was at least one other child in the family – Thomas who was one of these two youths who appear in the records of Newbury Borough.[18] Both were described as sons of John Read of Newbury, cordwainer and were apprenticed to Samuel Elkins, a cordwainer of Newbury, for terms of seven years:

- 11 September 1821 - Thomas Read
- 15 February 1836 - John Read

The 1841 census of Newbury includes John (aged 50-54) as a shoemaker at 4 Hereford Place along with Mary Read (50-54), Kitty Read (15-19), William Read (8) and George Shuff (4).

John and Mary '*Reece*' appear in the 1851 census of Church almshouses at Newbury, along with their 34-year-old unmarried daughter Sarah and a 7-year-old grandson Walter '*Reece*' who had been born in the City of London. John's occupation was recorded as '*postman almshouseman*'. The 1861 census of Church Almshouses, Newbury included John Read '*formerly postman'*, a widower aged 75 who was born at Newbury. Living with John at that time were his daughter Amelia, her husband James Paddick and their 9-year-old son James.

The death of John Read aged 77 was registered in June quarter 1863 at Newbury district. He was buried at Newton Road cemetery on 20 May 1863 (burial record number 9321).[19]

[17] Royal Berkshire Archives: D/EX1718/7/3.
[18] Royal Berkshire Archives: N/QXll/10/1/13 & 31.
[19] http://www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk/persondetails.asp?PersonID=9321

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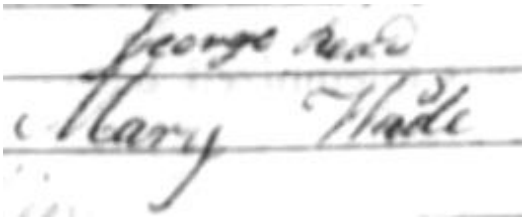
George Read (1790-1838) – grandfather

George, a son of John and Ann Read, was born on 15 January 1790 and baptised at Newbury parish church on 3 February, his father being described as a '*parish pauper*'. By 1814, George had travelled the 56 miles to London where his marriage took place at St Mary Marylebone church on 17 May of that year. George was a bachelor and his bride, Mary Wade, a spinster; both were living in that parish and both signed their names in the register. The witnesses, Richard Parkin and HG Wallington, have not been identified as relatives.



Mary was born and christened at Felthorpe, a few miles north of Norwich, in 1792, the third of seven children of Clark Wade (1760-1835) and his wife Hannah Grimes (1764-1840).

The building in which the wedding took place would not have been the imposing present-day parish church in Marylebone Road as that was not consecrated until 1817, but a more modest structure, known as the 'third church', which had opened in 1741 and stood on the west side of the north end of Marylebone High Street, facing Beaumont Street. The drawing of the third church below[20] dates from 1750, when its surroundings were much more rural than in 1814.

George and Mary had at least six children:

	Born/Baptised*	Married	Died/Buried*
John	1814*	n/a	1815* Horsford
George	1816*		
Clark (male)	1820	n/a	1835* Paddington
Mark	1826	Mary Ann Blizard 1853	1884 Bermondsey
Mary	1828	Frederick Smith 1870	1909 Camberwell
Ann	1833*	n/a	1916 Camberwell

[20] *Marylebone and St Pancras, their history, celebrities, buildings and institutions* by George Clinch (London 1890), p.18-19. https://archive.org/details/maryleboneandst00clingoog/page/n64/mode/2up

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The couple moved to Norfolk and were recorded as living at '*Heverland*' (i.e. Haveringland) when their son John was christened at Horsford on 8 December 1814. These places are both within a few miles of Felthorpe. John only lived for about two months; by the time he was buried at Horsford on 5 February 1815, the family were living in that parish. On 27 November 1815, Mary Read signed as a witness when her sister Ann Wade married John Norman at Felthorpe. George, the second of George and Mary's children, was baptised at Horsford on 12 July 1816. The father's occupation was given as a servant in both of the christening records at Horsford.

It is not certain where George and Mary lived between 1816 and 1820. It seems from evidence below that they probably spent some of that period at Ramsey, Huntingdonshire. However, they did not have children christened at Ramsey church during that period.

The British Lying-in Hospital for Married Women at Brownlow Street (now Betterton Street), Holborn - the first maternity hospital in London - was founded in 1749 and supported by voluntary subscriptions and donations. 20 beds were available for giving birth, normally with the help of midwife, and the patients were not charged. Women were received in the last month of their pregnancy, having to produce a letter of recommendation from a subscriber and an affidavit of their marriage and husband's parish of settlement. In many cases, no doubt, the mother or her husband would be employed by the subscriber who recommended admission.

Between 1820 and 1828, George and Mary Read had three children born at the British Lying-in hospital. They were living at 9 George Yard, Duke Street, just north of Grosvenor Square, when their son Clark Read was born on 7 February 1820. On that occasion, the mother's age was given as 27 and the parish of settlement as Ramsey, Huntingdonshire. The person who had recommended Mary for admission to the hospital was 'Elizabeth Carnarvon'. Elizabeth Alicia Maria Herbert (born Wyndham) (1752-1826) was the dowager Countess of Carnarvon and widow of the 1st Earl of Carnarvon. Her portrait, painted by Thomas Phillips (after Joshua Reynolds), appears below.

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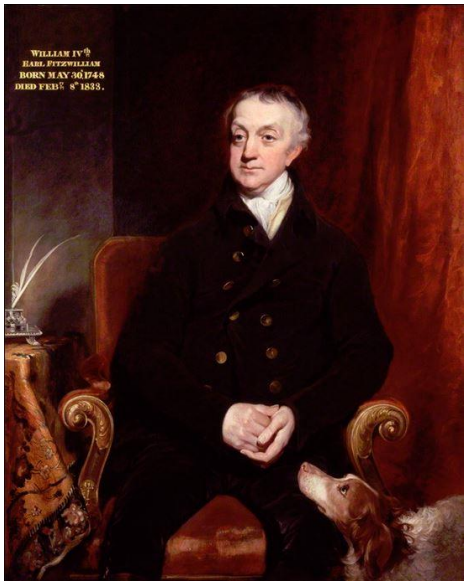
George and Mary's son, Mark, was baptised when 12 days old on 16 March 1826 at the same hospital. His father was described as a gentleman's coachman and his mother's age given as 33 years, the parish of settlement again being recorded as Ramsey, Huntingdonshire. '*Folkestone Ar.*' was the subscriber who recommended Mary on that occasion.

The British Lying-in Hospital, by J.S. Miller[21]

Mary Read was also born at the British Lying-in Hospital, on 1 March 1828 with baptism 11 days later. The family were still living at George Yard but their place of settlement in 1828 was given as St Marylebone. The recommender was recorded as '*Fitzwilliam*'. He was presumably William, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam (1748-1833), whose London residence at that time was at 4 Grosvenor Square.[22] His portrait, painted by William Owen in 1817, can be seen below.



[21] https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jjr862hm
[22] 4 Grosvenor Square is on its east side. The property was redeveloped in 1865-68 and the building now standing on the site is used as the Italian Embassy.

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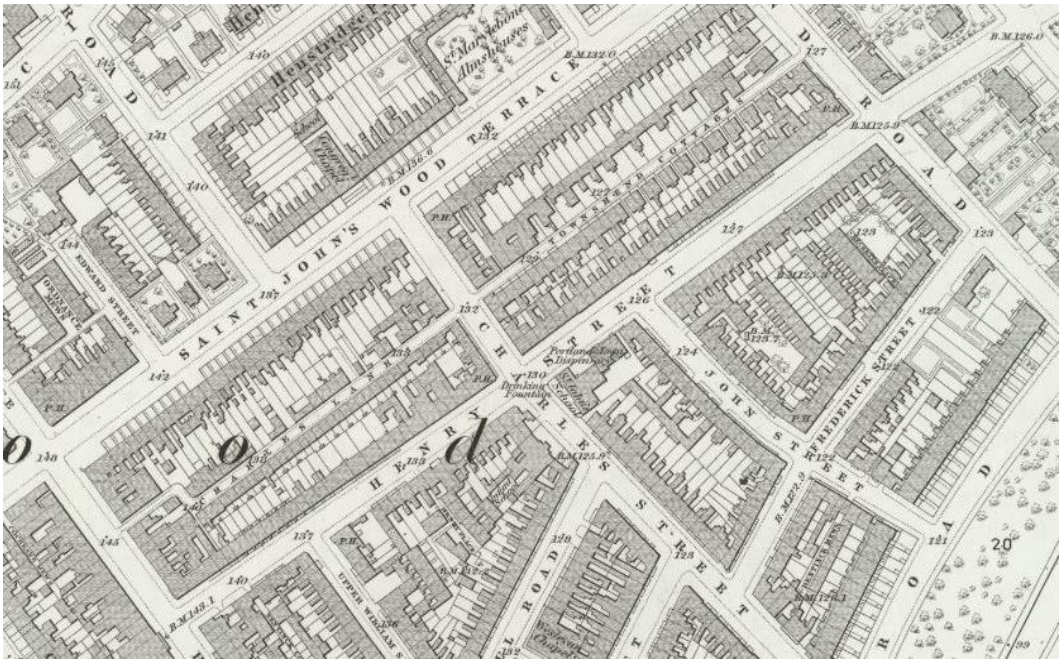
When George and Mary's daughter Ann was christened at St Mary, Paddington on 27 October 1833, the father was described as a coachman and they were living at 17 Torrington Mews. The family were still living at Torrington Mews on 12 November 1835 when their son Clark Read was buried at St Mary's.

George Read, a 48-year-old coachman, died of '*inflammation*' at Princess Mews, Marylebone at 6 pm on 24 April 1838. Mary Read, his widow, was present at the death and reported Princess Mews as her residence when she registered the event three days later. George's burial took place at St Mary, Marylebone on 2 May.

The census held on 6 June 1841 listed Mary Read, aged 45/49 and not born in Middlesex at a house in Bentick Court, Marylebone, with Mary Read (aged 12) and Ann Read (aged 7). Ten years later, the census recorded Mary, a 58-year-old laundress who was widowed and born at Felthorpe, at 18 Henry Street East, Marylebone. George Read, aged 33 years and born in Norfolk was a stableman living with his wife Louisa at 29 Dudley Street, St Giles in the Fields, London and may have been the child of George and Mary christened at Horsford in 1816.

The 1861 census recorded Mary Read as a 68-year-old widowed laundress who was born at Felthorpe, Norfolk. She was living at 40 Henry Street, Marylebone with her 27-year-old daughter Ann, a servant born at Paddington. Mary Read, described as widow of George Read (a cab owner), died of a '*diseased heart and enlarged liver*' on 26 July 1861. The death took place at 40 Henry Street and was registered three days later by 'M Read' of the same address.

Henry Street was situated a short distance north-west of Regents Park. It has been renamed as Allitsen Road and most if not all of the buildings that stood there when it was home to the Read family have been demolished. The map below shows the layout of Henry Street when the area was surveyed by Ordnance Survey in 1865-6.[23]



[23] https://maps.nls.uk/view/103312991

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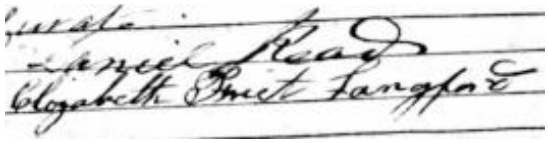
Daniel Read (1794-1871) – great uncle

Daniel, son of John & Ann Read, was born at Newbury and baptised there on 14 February 1794.

Like his brother George, in his youth Daniel moved to Marylebone. Both the bride and groom signed their names when Daniel Read and Elizabeth Friet Langford were married at St Mary Marylebone on 4 June 1818.



Their known children were:

	Born/baptised*	Married	Died/buried*
Thomas	1819	Mary Locke 1842	1857 Newington
Mary	1826		
Frances	1829	William Sheil 1854	1874 Holborn

As with some of the offspring of George and Mary Read, the three children of Daniel and Elizabeth were born at the British Lying-in hospital, whose records include the details of each one as follows:

> Thomas was born on 3 April 1819 and baptised five days later. His mother was stated to be Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Read, a footman with settlement at St Marylebone and whose home address was 15 North Street Manchester Square. The recommender was '*Carnarvon Elizth*'.
>
> Mary was born on 10 January 1826 and baptised nine days later. The name and settlement of the parents were the same as for Thomas, as was the recommender. However, in 1826 the home address was '*No.3 Fleming Street, near the Tower*'.
>
> Frances was born on 27 January 1829 and baptised two days later. Her parents' names and settlement were the same as for her older siblings but the occupation of her father was given as gentleman's servant and the home address as Norfolk St. Park Lane. The recommender was '*Manners Lady Robt*'

Mary Digges (1737-1829) was the elderly widow of General Lord Robert Manners (c.1717-1782).[24] The recommendation that Elizabeth Read be admitted to the Hospital for the birth of her daughter Frances, which took place on 27 January 1829, was one of Lady Manners' final activities as she died at her house in Grosvenor Square on 22 February of the same year.[25]

[24] *The History of Parliament*: Lord Robert Manners.
https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1715-1754/member/manners-lord-robert-1717-82
[25] *Morning Post* 24 February 1829, page 3 column 4.

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The will of '*Mary Manners the widow and Relict of the Right Honorable Robert Manners commonly called Lord Robert Manners*' was made on 9 June 1828 and proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 8 April 1829.[26] Its legacies included:

> '*to such of my servants living with me at the time of my decease as shall have lived with me seven years or upwards I bequeath the amount of two years wages and to such of them as shall have lived with me less than seven years the amount of one year's wages over and above what may be due to them respectively*'.

It seems likely that Daniel was among the beneficiaries of these provisions.

This portrait of Lady Manners was painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence about 1826.

The 1841 census recorded Daniel and Elizabeth Read at Park Street, St George's Hanover Square. They were amongst the 13 inhabitants of a household headed by John Wright. He was a publican but most of the other residents, including Daniel and Elizabeth, were described as servants.

In 1851, Daniel – still a servant - and Elizabeth were living at 42 James Street, Marylebone. Ten years later, the census recorded Daniel and Elizabeth in the City of London amongst the eight residents of 8 Blewitts Buildings, which stood off the east side of Fetter Lane. Both the 1851 and 1861 censuses state that Daniel was born at Newbury and Elizabeth at Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Towards the end of his life, Daniel returned to Newbury, where the register of burials at its cemetery records that of '*Daniel Reid*' of Newbury aged 76 years, who was interred on 6 February 1871 (burial record number 2766).[27]

[26] The National Archives: PROB11/1754/267.
https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D189284
[27] http://www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk/persondetails.asp?PersonID=2900

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Martha Read (born 1797) – great aunt

Martha, daughter of John & Ann Read, was born on 9 February 1797 and baptised at Newbury on the following 1 March.

Newbury parish register records the marriage on 1 May 1819 of William Archer of Wash in this parish & Martha Read of this parish. For both bride and groom, it was their first marriage and they each made their marks in the register. The witnesses were John Cook & Elizabeth Challis.

Apart from the youngest one, all of these children of William and Martha were baptised at Newbury:

	Born	Married	Buried
Eliza	1819	John Cripps 1845	
Thomas	1822		1845 Newbury
William	1824		
Charles	1827	Elizabeth Jewell 1853	
Henry	1830	Phoebe Collins 1855	1900 Berkshire
George	1833		
Daniel	1836	n/a	1838 Newbury
John	1838		
Hannah	1842	Henry Leavey 1868	1897 Kingston on Thames

The baptism record in 1819 states that the family were living at the top of Bartholomew Street and in 1822 simply as Bartholomew Street. By 1824, they had moved to Wash Common, a locality two miles south-west of the centre of Newbury but still within the parish.

The 1841 census lists Martha along with her children Henry George and John but the only reference found in that source to her husband is that her occupation was written as '*wife of lab*', a comment that was crossed through. The order of entries in the census records for that year indicates that the family were living in the vicinity of Newbury Hall.

William and Martha appeared at Wash Common in the 1851 census, accompanied by their children John and Hannah. In 1861, the couple's home was 4 Montague Place, Newbury where the other members of the household were their nine-year-old granddaughter Eliza Cripps and a five-year-old girl described as a boarder. All references that have been found to William Archer's job describe him as a labourer.

Neither William or Martha have been found in the 1871 census. William Archer aged 69 was buried at Newbury cemetery on 16 July 1869.[28] The age recorded then is fairly consistent with the ages of 52 and 58 recorded for William Archer by the censuses held in 1851 and 1861.

Martha's death has not been positively identified.

[28] http://www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk/persondetails.asp?PersonID=2632

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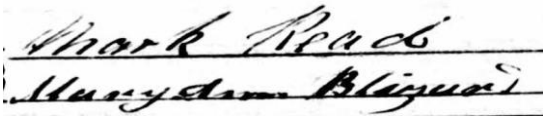
Mark Read (1826-1884) - father

In the 1841 census, '*Mark Reed*' aged 15 was described as a male servant living in the household of John Scull, a licensed victualler, at 45 Molyneux Street, Marylebone. John Scull was landlord of '*The Duke of York*', 45 Queen Street, Bryanston Square, so that was probably Mark's workplace.

Mark has not been positively identified in the 1851 census. It is feasible that he may have been a man who was simply recorded without birthplace or occupation as '*Read*' aged 25 in the household of James Freeman, a coffee house keeper at 28 James Street, Covent Garden.

On 18 December 1853, Mark Read, a porter of Liverpool Street (now Birkenhead Street), married Mary Ann Blizard, a spinster of Chichester Place (a terrace that still stands at the southwest corner of the junction of Gray's Inn Road and Euston Road). The wedding took place at St Pancras Old Church and both parties signed the register.



Mary Ann had been born in 1827 at Bangalore, India where her father James Blizard (1795-1846) was a soldier in the 1st Regiment of Foot. Her mother, Sarah, had also died in 1846. One of the witnesses, who signed her name as Sarah Blizard, appears to have been Mary Ann's younger sister. No family connection has been detected for George Ferrier, who was the other witness.

St Pancras Old Church was superseded as the parish church when a much larger building in Euston Road was consecrated in 1822. The old church building became a 'chapel of ease' within the same parish and was renovated and increased in size in 1847-8.

St Pancras Old Church[29]

[29] Picture by Robin Webster via Wikimedia Commons and licensed under the terms of CC BY 2.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

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Mark and Mary Ann had at least six children:

	Born	Married	Died
Mary Ann	1854	William Heffran 1885 Henry Charles Baker 1901	1943
Mark (James)	1857	Elizabeth Goldsworthy Lawrence 1883	1908
William	1859	n/a	1866
Charles Frederick	1862	Mary Ann Evans 1888	1950
Alfred James	1867	n/a	1868
Arthur	1869	n/a	1869

The family were living at Bermondsey when Mary Ann was born, but by 1857 they had moved across the Thames and were living at 35 Canterbury Road, near Balls Pond Road, Islington. The 1861 census includes Mark and his family at 14 Manor Place, Newington. Mark was working as a porter and his wife is positively identified as the former Mary Ann Blizard by her birthplace, which was noted as '*Bangalore, East Indies*'. The house contained a total of 22 people arranged as five different households. One of these was headed by Mary Read, a bookbinder, aged 41. She was the widow of Mark's cousin, Thomas Read (1819-1857).

Between 1866 and 1869, Mark's family have been located at three different addresses, all close to each other near Bow Road, to the south-east of Victoria Park. All the streets mentioned appear in this extract from the 1870 Ordnance Survey map.

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- When their son William died at home after 12 hours of suffering from cholera on 25 July 1866, Mark and Mary Ann were living at 3 Three Colts Street.

- The register of St Stephen, Tredegar Road records the private christening on 13 January 1868 of Alfred, son of Mark Read, a potman. The child had been born on 1 September 1867 and the child was evidently seriously ill, as he died at home of pneumonia two days later. Mark and his family were then living at 43 Armagh Road South.

- The family's home was at 25 Cardigan Road when Arthur was born there on 20 January 1869 and 20 minutes later died of exhaustion.

The 1871 census recorded Mark and most of his surviving family back in south London at 1 Alfred Place, near Old Kent Road, Southwark. Mark was employed as a potman. Mary Ann's birthplace was given as '*East Indies*'. Two children were living at home – Mark, a shop boy aged 14, and Charles, aged 7. The oldest child, Mary Ann, was 17 at that time; she was working as a general servant and lodging nearby at 6 Merrick Square.

It has not been possible to locate Mark senior, his wife or any of their children in the 1881 census index, apart from the oldest child Mary Ann.

Mark Read, a labourer aged 59, died of bronchitis on 13 January 1884 at 106 Alderminster Road, Bermondsey. The informant gave her name as Charlotte Read and said she was the widow. However, there is no record of a Mark Read marrying in London between 1871 to 1884, apart from Mark Read junior. Nor was anyone with the name Mark Read married to a wife called Charlotte anywhere in England & Wales during that period.[30] It is therefore almost certain that Mark senior and Charlotte were not married to each other and quite likely that Mary Ann was still living at the time of Mark's death but parted from her husband. We can be confident that the 1884 death is the correct one because Mark Read's daughter-in-law Mary Ann Evans remembered him and Alderminster Road was only a few minutes' walk from Balaclava Road where the Evans family lived during the 1880s. According to her, Mark Read drank excessively – an occupational hazard of his career as a potman.

The death of Mark's wife, Mary Ann Read, has not been positively identified. For the reasons set out in Appendix D, she was almost certainly not the 'Mary Ann Read' who signed her name as a witness to the marriage of her son Mark in 1883.

The wife of Mark Read senior may have been the same person as Mary Ann Read, a laundress who died of pneumonia in Newington Workhouse, Westmoreland Road, Walworth on 2 February 1890. However, the age recorded when her death was registered was 59, which is three years adrift from Mary Ann Blizard's birth date of 25 November 1827.

[30] Both searches were made on the FreeBMD website with the phonetic option to include surname variations. https://www.freebmd.org.uk/

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Mary Read (1828-1909) & Ann Read (1833-1916) - aunts

On 28 August 1870, George & Mary's daughter, Mary, married Frederick Smith (c.1840-1907) at St Bride Fleet Street. In 1871, they were living at 66 Queen's Crescent, St Pancras. On that occasion, Frederick was recorded as a 31-year-old tea grocer who had been born at Halstead, Essex and Mary as aged 42 and born at St Pancras. By the time of the 1891 census, Frederick was beadle at Girdlers' Hall in the City of London. He and Mary, along with her unmarried sister Ann, appear in the 1891 census at 39 Basinghall Street where the household occupied four rooms and also included Frederick's widowed mother, Susan Smith. Ten years later, they were living at the same address and Frederick was still working as the beadle.

When Frederick retired, he and the two sisters moved to the Girdlers' Company's almshouses at Albert Road (now Consort Road), Peckham, where they lived in the two roomed cottage with the address 1 Beeston Houses. Frederick Smith died at the age of 66 and was buried in a private grave at Camberwell Cemetery on 7 February 1907. His wife was buried there on 29 January 1909, aged 80. Ann Read, who suffered from arthritis[31], was allowed to stay on at the almshouses for the rest of her life. The 1911 census recorded Ann there, along with Mary Ann Wickham - a widow aged 58 who was described as her companion.

Ann Read died on 2 January 1916, aged 82, and was buried in the same grave as her sister and brother-in-law.[32] The will that she had made on 7 July 1909 appointed Henry Roberts and Henry Charles Baker as executors. A codicil was added on 7 November 1912. The executors obtained probate on 31 March 1916 with the total value of the effects being reported as £446.16s.7d. Bequests to 14 named relatives and friends amounted to £216. Appendix E provides an edited transcript of the office copy of the will and codicil.

Beeston's Almshouses

[31] Information from Mrs Stevens, a resident of Beeston's Almshouses in 1969, whose mother was a friend of Ann Read.
[32] Grave number 20356, square 70, unconsecrated.

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Mary Ann Read (1854-1943) - sister

Mary Ann was born on 26 July 1854 at 26 Neckinger Street and baptised at Christ Church, Bermondsey on 8 October of the same year. Her father's occupation at that time was as a porter.

In the 1881 census, Mary A Read was recorded as a 27-year-old servant living at 55 Fort Road, Bermondsey in the household of her employer Lewis Jones, a pickle and jam manufacturer. Mary Ann's daughter has not been found in the records of that census.

Mary Ann Read married William Heffran, a carman, at All Saints, Newington on Christmas Day 1885. William signed his name but Mary Ann inscribed her mark in the register. The witnesses were her brother Mark Read and his wife Elizabeth Goldsworthy Read.

In the 1891 census William and Mary Ann Heffran are recorded as living in three rooms at 40 Riley Street, Bermondsey, along with the daughter Mary Ann who was aged 13.

William Heffran died in 1900. The 1901 census recorded his widow and her daughter as still living at 40 Riley Street. The mother worked as a charwoman and the daughter as a domestic servant. The other person present in the household was a visitor, Elizabeth B Daniels.

On 22 October 1901, Mary Ann married Henry Charles Baker, an engine driver, at All Saints, Newington. He had been a widower for nearly two years and was the father of eight children whose approximate ages at the time of the marriage ranged from 18 to six. The couple's residence was recorded in the marriage register as 101 Faraday Street but when the census took place earlier in the same year, Henry had been living in four rooms at 11 Silcote Road, Camberwell (the address where Charles Frederick Read was living in 1899), accompanied by six of his children.

Henry Charles Baker

At the time of the 1911 census, Henry Charles and Mary Ann Baker were in residence at 1 Harris Street, Southampton Street, Camberwell, along with two daughters and a son from his first marriage.

In 1916, Mary Ann received a legacy worth about £125 from her aunt Ann Read who also left £10 to Henry Charles. It may be that the arrival of these resources influenced the couple's decision to emigrate to Australia. They do not appear in FindMyPast's index to the 1921 census, so it seems that by then they had departed from England. Millie recalled that her father went as far as the dockside to see them off.

Henry Charles Baker died in 1934 at Heidelberg, a town on what was then the outskirts of Melbourne. Mary Ann survived her husband and died at Ballarat, some 70 miles to the east of Melbourne, on 8 November 1943. The cause of her death was recorded as diabetes mellitus and cardiac degeneration.[33]

[33] Australia Death Index lists her as Mary Ann Baker, aged 89, died 1943 at Ballarat, Victoria, daughter of Mark Reid & Mary Blizzard (registration number 21399/1943).

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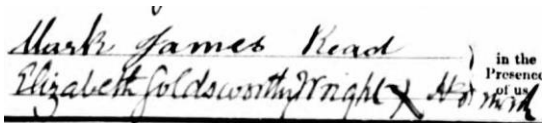
Mark (James) Read (1857-1908) - brother

Mark Read was born on 8 July 1857 at 35 Canterbury Road, Islington, his father's occupation being given as a potman. Mark is said to have served in the Army, so he may have been abroad at the time of the 1881 census. As an adult, the younger Mark seems to have been known as Mark James and it is by this name that he married Elizabeth Goldsworthy Wright (1856-1927) at All Saints Newington on 25 December 1883. Elizabeth was a widow living at 2 Alfred Place, Old Kent Road, a daughter of John Edward William Lawrence. Mark was a labourer living at 67 Westmoreland Road at the time of the marriage. The witnesses were John Edward William Lawrence (father of the bride) and Mary Ann Read, whose identity is discussed above.



The ceremony must have been particularly poignant for the bride, as it was only 32 months after she had married her late first husband, Thomas Wright, in the same church.

The 1891 census lists two households as living at 2 Larnaca Street, Bermondsey. One of these occupied three rooms and was headed by Mark Read, aged 33, a carman born at Kingsland. Also present were his wife Elizabeth, aged 34 (born at Camberwell), a three-year-old nephew James Lawrence (born at Bermondsey) and Charlotte Davey, a 78-year-old lodger who had been born in Devon. It is feasible that Charlotte, who was described as single in the census, may have been the "widow" who registered the death of Mark senior in 1884.

The 1901 census records Mark and Elizabeth as living in three rooms at 2 Larnaca Street, Bermondsey. He was then working as a carman.

'Mark James Read' of 14 Larnaca Street, Bermondsey was buried at Nunhead Cemetery on 11 November 1908. Elizabeth was living in two rooms at the same address at the time of the 1911 census. By the time of her third marriage, which took place on 21 December 1913 at St James church Bermondsey, Elizabeth was living at 36 Jamaica Road. The groom was Frederick William Sherwood, a widower then living at 49 Lind Street.

The death of Elizabeth Goldsworthy Sherwood aged 71 was registered in March quarter 1927 at St Olave district. She was buried in Southwark on 15 March 1927.

Millie mentioned that her uncle Mark and Elizabeth had no biological children but brought up an adopted son who was killed in the First World War. He was James Charles Lawrence, the nephew who was living with them in 1891. His father James John Lawrence (1863-1905?) was a brother of Elizabeth and had married Mary Ann Hall in 1887. In 1901, James was staying with his paternal grandparents at 25 Larnaca Street but in 1911 was living with Elizabeth, giving his name as James Charles Read and described as her son. Later that year he married Annie Hitchcock, a marriage that produced two children – Annie May Read (born in 1912) and James Frederick Lawrence Read (1914-1982). 'James Charles Lawrence Read' enlisted as a private in Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment, 6th battalion, regimental number 12708 and was killed in action in France on 23 September 1915. He is buried at Becourt Military Cemetery (now Dartmoor Cemetery), Becordel-Becourt in northern France.

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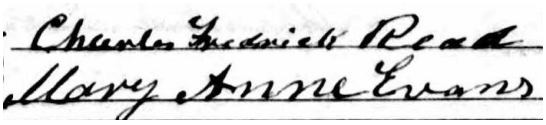
Charles Frederick Read (1862-1950) & Mary Annie Evans (1860-1949)

Mark Read was working as a potman when this son was born on 8 June 1862 at 21 Royal Terrace, Walworth. This was a terraced house with no forecourt, fronting on to a narrow road.[34] The premises were described by the Valuation Office survey of 1910-1915 as having two rooms on the first floor and two on the ground floor with the kitchen and scullery combined and the wc in the extremely small rear yard.[35] It is not known how many households lived at the address when it was home to the Read family.

Charles Frederick is said to have started work at Southwark. He was a warehouseman living at Walworth when on 25 March 1888 he married Mary Annie, the daughter of Henry Evans and his first wife Elizabeth Crewe (1830-1869). The ceremony took place at St Stephen, Walworth, the witnesses being the groom's sister Mary Ann Heffran and the bride's brother Robert Evans.



Mary Annie had apparently known the Read family for more than four years before they married, as she was acquainted with her future father-in-law, who died early in 1884.

By the time of the birth of their first child, Charles Frederick and Mary Annie were living above the Evans shop at 2 Balaclava Road, Bermondsey with Henry and his second wife, Teresa. The 1891 census recorded Charles and his family as occupying one room there.

Charles Frederick and Mary Annie's children were:

	Born	Married	Died
Amelia Mary Annie "Millie"	1889	Ernest Edwin Dalby 1913	1971
Frederick Charles Henry "Freddy"	1891	n/a	1892
Daisy Theresa	1893	n/a	1893
Violet Daisy "Vi"	1894	n/a	1950

The two children who died in infancy both succumbed to pneumonia, each shortly before it was intended that their photograph would be taken. Freddy was buried at Nunhead Cemetery on 12 May 1892, aged ten months. Daisy lived for only seven months and was buried at the same cemetery on 26 October 1893.

Before long, further tragedies struck the family. For reasons that are not clear, on 22 March 1896 Henry Evans committed suicide at home by swallowing carbolic acid. He did not leave a will so his assets went to his widow. On 11 March of the following year, the solicitor did not arrive to complete Teresa's will until immediately after she had expired. As a result, her property went not to Mary Annie Read as she had intended, but to Teresa's brother Benjamin Littlewood. Charles Frederick and his family had to leave 2 Balaclava Road and cope with reduced circumstances.

[34] The site of 21 Royal Terrace is now part of a grassed area between Cruden House and Molesworth House on the Brandon Estate.
[35] The National Archives: IR58/78694.

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In 1901, the family were living in a 4-room house at 68 Rommany Road, West Norwood and Charles was working as a tram driver. The 1901 electoral register for Norwood includes Charles Frederick Read as qualified to vote in parochial and county elections through his occupation of 68 Rommany Road and, previously, at 11 Silcote Road, Camberwell.[36] This is consistent with the 1899 electoral register for Camberwell North constituency, which lists three voters at 11 Silcote Road – one for each of its three floors. The voter living on the ground floor was recorded as 'Frederick Charles Read', the register clearly having transposed his names.

Millie was a scholar at St Luke's School, Linton Grove when a part of the building collapsed in 1901. She played the piano by ear and was from an early age a noted singer, already performing in public as early as the death of Henry Evans, soon after her seventh birthday. She recalled being rewarded for one of her performances when a child with what she called a 'yellow six pence', having never previously seen a sovereign. In her youth, she sang at the Gipsy Road Tabernacle (founded in 1900 by Rev Walter Hobbs on his departure from Gipsy Road Baptist chapel). Known as 'The Tab', it stood next door to the Gipsy House public house on the north side of Gipsy Road, just east of its junction with Auckland Hill.

Charles Frederick Read is recorded at 225 Rommany Road (now 49 Vale Street), West Norwood in the 1904 to 1907 electoral registers. The family is also said to have lived at the top of St Cloud Road, West Norwood at some point in the early years of the 20th century. Although he was skilled at driving a team of four horses, Charles did not always have regular employment and when out of work would visit the newspaper reading room of West Norwood library to seek opportunities. Millie recalled that on only one occasion was the family home completely without food or money to buy any. Charles was able to work on that day in moving the possessions of a judge from Leigham Court Road to his new home at Epsom and took the few remaining items of food with him as sandwiches. When he returned home in the evening, the sandwiches were unconsumed and became the evening meal, as a meal had been provided at Epsom for the removal team.

At the age of 13, Millie had reached the required standard to leave school for employment. One of her jobs during the next decade was managing a shop at Streatham. This involved carrying the takings back to Norwood along a rather lonely route up a footpath (Wellfield Walk or possibly Russell's Footpath). In due course she decided that it would be safer to travel by bus to Brixton and then take another bus from there to Norwood. At the time of the 1911 census, Millie was the manager of a laundry receiving office at The Broadway, a recently-built parade in Norwood Road between Lancaster Avenue and Chatsworth Way.[37]

School registers provide these details about Violet Daisy. On 22 March 1901, she was admitted as a pupil at Salters Hill school (now Kingswood school, Gipsy Road) but left on 25 October of the same year with a note that said 'removed' but did not identify the new school. It is likely that she then went to St Luke's school, Linton Grove, where her older sister was a pupil. The admission and discharge register for 'mentally defective infants' at Gipsy Road school states she was admitted on 7 June 1906 from St Luke's school and remained until 9 January 1908

[36] Silcote Road, which ran off the south-east side of Albany Road almost opposite its junction with Bagshot Street, was one of the many roads in the area that were swept away for the creation of Burgess Park, following extensive bomb damage in the Secord World War.
[37] The Britannia Hygienic Laundry Co. Ltd. was recorded at 9 The Broadway (now 479 Norwood Road) in the 1914 edition of the Post Office London Directory (County Suburbs).
https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/137074/rec/25

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with the explanation '*Left neighbourhood transferred to Sussex Road*'. Sussex Road - just south of Coldharbour Lane, Brixton - was close to Loughborough Junction. This is consistent with Millie's recollection that the family had at one stage lived at 'Loughborough'.

It was not long before Charles Frederick and his family returned to West Norwood. He appears in the 1910 electoral register as 48a Durban Road and worked on the construction of the Arnold and Jane Gabriel Home, Wolfington Road which was completed in that year to house the younger children of the Jewish Orphanage. 48a Durban Road was a purpose-built ground-floor flat with four rooms. Charles was evidently still employed by the Jewish Orphanage at the time of the 1911 census which records his occupation as 'Handy Man at Institution'.

Jewish Orphanage, Knights Hill

Kelly's Directory of Norwood and Streatham listed Charles Frederick Read at 48a Durban Road in its 1916 edition but not in the one published in the following year. Around that point, the family moved to 125 Queen's Road (now Queen Mary Road), Upper Norwood, where they occupied five rooms in the three-storey house.

When completing the form for the 1921 census, Charles stated that both he and his wife were employed by the Jewish Orphanage, where he was a handy man and she a charwoman. They worked there for many years, probably until the 1930s, and their home remained at 125 Queen Mary Road. Mary Annie was both kindly and resolute - if she met children from the orphanage outside, she would greet each one by name but when a runaway horse careering down Wolfington Road threatened to collide with Violet her mother did not hesitate to grab and fling her daughter out of the way.

It was presumably in the early 1930s that Charles retired from work. On that occasion, the Jewish Orphanage presented him with a walking stick. This item (pictured below) may originally have come from Barnett Meyers (c.1814-1889) who donated the land at Norwood on which the Orphanage was constructed. Meyers was described in the 1860 Post Office Commercial Directory as a "*walking stick, cane, whip, portable stool & fishing rod manufacturer, cane worker & importer & wholesale dealer in canes*".

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After work, Charles and Mary Annie sometimes visited the Norwood Hotel (now Great North Wood) at Knights Hill opposite the entrance to the Orphanage. Charles was also a customer of the Conquering Hero, a public house at Beulah Hill close to his home.

Norwood Hotel in 1910

Conquering Hero

On 9 February 1913, Millie married Ernest Edwin Dalby (1890-1947) at Lambeth Registry Office. By September 1916, when their son was born, the Dalby family were living at 119 Queens Road. In the autumn of 1918, they moved from Queens Road to 28 Thurlestone Road, West Norwood. This was to be home to Ernest, Millie and their two children during most of the remainder of Charles and Mary Annie's lives. The picture is of Ernest and Millie with their children Eileen Gladwys (1914-2010) and Lord Arthur Roland (1916-2000).

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The 1939 population register listed Charles F and Mary A Read at 125 Queen Mary Road, along with their daughter Violet who was described as 'incapacitated'. In her youth, Violet had an operation to reduce an over-large thyroid gland. Too much material was removed and for the rest of her life she was somewhat lethargic.

Mary Annie & Charles Frederick Read

Mary Annie's health deteriorated towards the end of her life and she was heard to reflect that "maybe it won't be long". After a fall in which the femur of her left leg was broken, she was taken to Mayday Hospital, Croydon where she died of hypostatic pneumonia on 12 January 1949. The funeral took place at West Norwood cemetery six days later. The account from J B Wilson, the undertaker of Norwood High Street, amounted to a total of £37.14s.6d, including £16.4s.6d to the cemetery company.

Charles died on 13 February 1950 at Queen's Hospital, Croydon. His funeral took place seven days later.

Violet never married but lived with her parents throughout their lives. She did not survive them for long but succumbed to tuberculosis in October 1950.

Charles Frederick, Mary Annie and Violet Daisy were buried in the same grave at West Norwood Cemetery (number 40248). Their tombstone was one of the many there that were destroyed by Lambeth Council in the 1970s.

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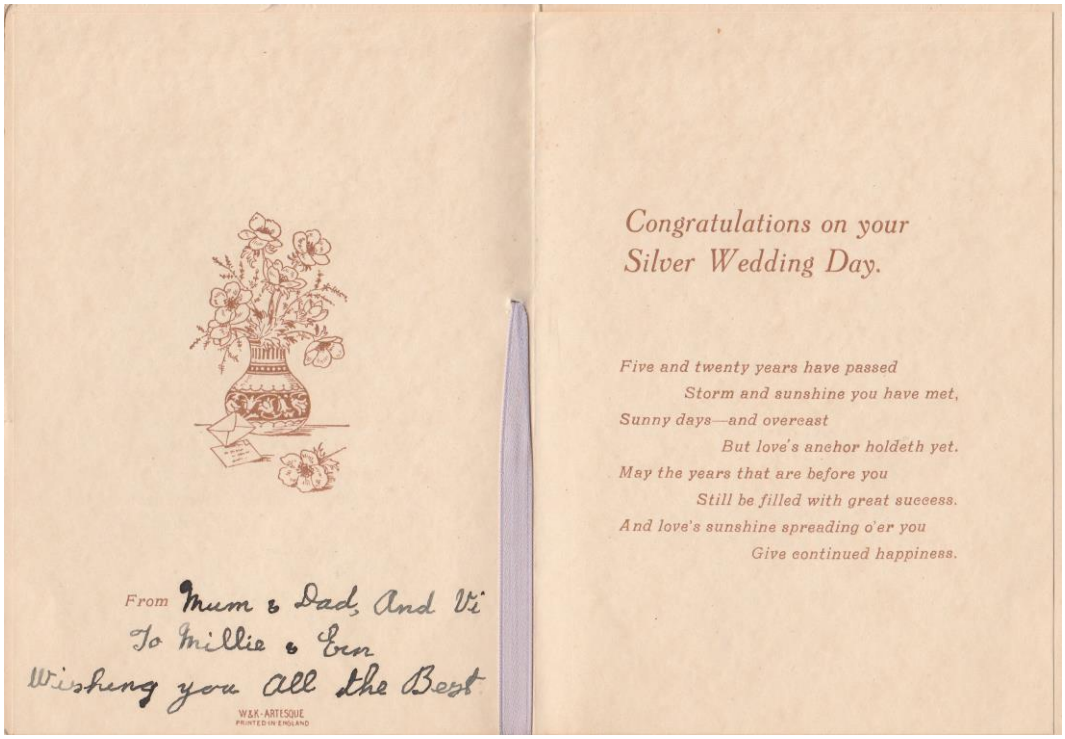
Many of the houses where Read family members lived in London have been demolished. These pictures show places in Norwood where Charles and his family lived and that do survive.

225 Rommany Road (now 49 Vale Street)

48a Durban Road

125 Queens Road (now Queen Mary Road)


Congratulations on your
Silver Wedding Day.
Five and twenty years have passed
Storm and sunshine you have met,
Sunny days—and overcast
But love's anchor holdeth yet.
May the years that are before you
Still be filled with great success.
And love's sunshine spreading o'er you
Give continued happiness.
From Mum & Dad, And Vi
To Millie & Ern
Wishing you all the Best
W&K-ARTESQUE
PRINTED IN ENGLAND

Silver wedding greetings – 9 February 1938

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Mary Ann Read/Heffran (1877-1936) - niece

The register of St John Horsleydown records the baptism on 25 November 1877 of Mary Ann, who was described as the illegitimate daughter of Mary Ann Read and her abode stated to be 'Union', meaning the workhouse. The child had been born on 5 August of the same year. She has not been located in the 1881 census.

Mary Ann was over eight years when her mother married William Heffran, making it most unlikely that he was Mary Ann's biological father. Nevertheless, William described Mary Ann as his daughter at the time of the 1891 census and she used Heffran as her surname until she married.

Mary Ann Heffran married her step-brother Rowland John Baker at St Giles Camberwell on 8 July 1905. Rowland was a stoker at that time. In 1909, Rowland John Baker was included in the electoral register at 48 Oglander Road, East Dulwich. Apparently in the same year, Mary Ann and Rowland emigrated to New Zealand where he was listed in the 1911 electoral register as living at Mokau, a small town about 75 miles south of Auckland, working as a labourer. Later registers record him as a fireman at Princes Street, Onehunga (1914), a seaman at 132 Newton Road, Auckland (1919) and a labourer at 5 Shaddock Street, Auckland (1925-1938).

Mary Ann and Rowland had two children:

	Born	Married	Died
Emily	1914		
Winifred Mary "Winnie"	1919	Ivan Alfred Mears	2007

Mary Ann died on 11 December 1936 at 5 Shaddock Street. She had been sick for about six months, suffering from aortic stenosis and myocardial degeneration. Rowland survived until 24 November 1951 when he died at Auckland hospital.

Ivan & Winifred Mears

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Appendix A: John Read baptisms in Hampshire, 1741-1751

Baptisms during this period of children with the name John Read or a variation found in an index compiled by Ancestry have been checked with scans of original parish registers and are:

Year	Name & date	Parents	Parish	Miles
1741	John Read 18 Oct	John & Mary	Whitsbury	33
1741/2	**John Read 28 Jan**	**Richard & Rebecca**	**West Tytherley**	**26**
1743	John Reed 24 July	John & Jane	Alton	17
1743/4	John Read 5 Feb	Daniel & Mary	Titchfield	25
1745	John Rood 19 April	'*baseborn son of widow Rood*'	Bishop's Waltham	19
1745	John Read 4 June	William & Mary	Sopley	39
1745/6	John Rood 23 March	Andrew & Ruth	Eling	22
1746	John Reed 2 Aug	Henry & Mary	Ellingham	35
1746	**John Read 5 Oct**	**Edward & Betty**	**Sopley**	**39**
1747	John Read 27 Sept	John	Brockenhurst	30
1747/8	John Reed 18 Feb	John	Hambledon	25
1747/8	John Read 26 Feb	James	Fordingbridge	33
1749	John Read 21 May	John & Mary	Dummer	7
1749	John Read 26 Dec	Thomas & Elizabeth	Titchfield	25
1749	John Read 27 Dec	William & Ann	Titchfield	25

'*Miles*' is the distance from the relevant parish to Micheldever.
Records **in bold** are those for whom an infant burial has been found.

In addition, these baptisms are included in an index compiled by FamilySearch but the relevant registers could not be checked in digitised images.

Year	Name & date	Parents	Parish	Miles
1741	John Reed 27 Nov	Thomas & Margaret	Portsmouth	31
1744	John Andrews Reed 16 Feb	Henry & Mary	Gosport	29
1748	John Reed 21 Aug	John	Portsea	31
1750	John Reed 28 Jan	John & Mary	Southampton	20

The index to the registers for the parishes in the first list have been checked for the burial of infants or children called John Read during the 20 years after the relevant baptism and any references found checked with the registers themselves. Those found are:

- 7 February 1741/2 John the son of Richard Read at West Tytherley
- 10 March 1746/7 John the son of Edward & Battey Read at Sopley

Of the 17 baptisms for which no infant burial has been identified, the closest to Micheldever is the son of John & Mary Read at Dummer on 21 May 1749. It does not prove that the ceremony is for the person apprenticed to William Croucher but as that indenture ran from 15 May 1762, John from Dummer, some six miles south-west of the centre of Basingstoke, would have been about 13 years old at that time – a very plausible age, but one that would make him about four years younger than indicated by the ages recorded for him in the 1815 census of Newbury and when he was buried in 1821.

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Appendix B: Reads recorded in the 1815 census of Newbury

A Census of the Population of Newbury was taken between May 20th and June 9th 1815 by Joseph Toomer, the Mayor.[38] The households containing anyone with the surname Read are listed below.
+ means that the person is bracketed with the following one in the list, apparently to indicate they were a married couple.

Page 18 – Almshouses (west side of St Mary Hill) – 22 May 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Unoccupied			M	Mrs Read

Page 20 – Church's Yard (west side of St Mary Hill) – 22 May 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
John Beale	40	Woolcomber	M	
Sarah	30		F	
Sarah Read	73	Visitor	F	Has Almshouse

Page 73 – Lewis's Yard (west side of Northbrook Street) – 27 May 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Elizabeth Ashley			F	1821 Hall
Ann Ashley		Millener	F	
Mary Wentworth	19		F	
Ann Read	20*		F	
Sarah Canfield			F	May 1819 Coombs
Letitia Pocock	13		F	
Eleanor Barker	13		F	
Caroline West		Servant	F	

* *Ages and notes for this household are added in pencil. The age for Ann Read is very faint.*

Page 112 – East side of Bartholomews Street – 2 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Harvey Grace +	45	Seedsman	M	
Elizabeth	35		F	
Elizabeth	12		F	
Harvey	10		M	
John	9		M	
Mary Read	24	Servant	F	

[38] Royal Berkshire Archives: D/EX1718/7/3.

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Page 134 – Whitemans Yard (east side of Bartholomew Street) – 3 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Thomas Smith +	65	Gardener	M	
Hannah	65		F	Blind
Elizabeth Read	31		F	
Emily	4		F	
Henry	2		M	
Charles West	14		M	

Page 134 – Whitemans Yard (east side of Bartholomew Street) – 3 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
James Smith	19	Baker	M	
Elizabeth Smith	21		F	
George Read	16		M	
Elizabeth Powell	17		F	
John Smith	20		M	

Page 152 – Almshouses in Fair Close – 7 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
John Read	70		M	
Ann	63		F	

Page 158 – Bartholomew Terrace (south side of Pound Street) – 7 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Mark Willis senr +	54		M	
Catherine	49		F	
Richard Read +	60		M	
Sarah	55		F	

Page 169 – Central Houses, City – 7 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Daniel Skeats +	26	Shoemaker	M	
Ann	37		F	
George	1		M	
Harriet Read	12		F	By former Husband

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Page 169 – Central Houses, City – 7 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Thomas Pegg +	46	Bull & Dog	M	
Mary	33		F	
Martha Read	18		F	
Thomas Read	9		M	

Page 172 – West side of Newtown Lane – 7 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
John Read +	28	Shoemaker	M	
Mary	26		F	
Amelia	6		F	
Mary Ann	3		F	

Page 172 – West side of Newtown Lane – 7 June 1815

Persons Names	Supposed Age	Employ	Sex	Notes
Jonathan Collins +	44	Butcher	M	
Elizabeth	40		F	
William Collins	4		M	
Elizabeth Read	18		F	

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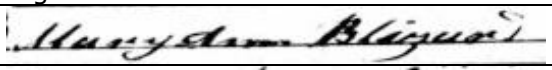
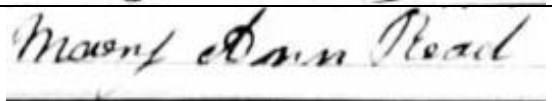
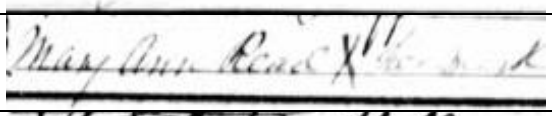
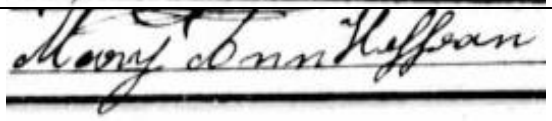
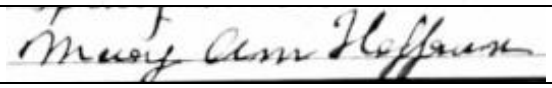
Appendix C: Relationship of some people named in the section headings

John READ (c.1745-1821) m. Ann DAY		
John READ (1786-1863) m. Mary ALLEN	**George READ** (1790-1838) m. Mary WADE	**Daniel READ** (1794-1871) m. Elizabeth Friet LANGFORD
Mark READ (1826-1884) m. Mary Ann BLIZARD	**Mary READ** (1828-1909) m. Frederick SMITH	**Ann READ** (1833-1916)
Mary Ann READ (1854-1943) m. (1) William HEFFRAN (2) Henry Charles BAKER	**Mark (James) READ** (1857-1908) m. Elizabeth Goldsworthy WRIGHT	**Charles Frederick READ** (1862-1950) m. Mary Annie EVANS

Appendix D: Which Mary Ann Read witnessed the 1883 marriage?

This table helps consideration of whether 'Mary Ann Read' who witnessed the marriage of Mark Read junior in 1883 was his mother or his sister who had identical names.

Year	Signature	Relationship to Mark Read junior
1853		Mother (marriage)
1883		Witness to Read-Lawrence marriage
1885		Sister (1st marriage)
1888		Sister witness to Read-Evans marriage
1901		Sister (2nd marriage)

When she married William Heffran in 1885, Mary Ann Read junior made a mark instead of signing her name in the register. However, her signature was clearly written when she was a witness to the wedding of her brother Charles in 1888. That and her signature in 1901 resemble the one provided in 1883. So, it appears that the witness to the 1883 wedding was the groom's sister – a conclusion that does not establish whether or not their mother was still living at that time.

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Appendix E: Will & codicil of Ann Read, probate 1916

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me ANN READ of No 1 Beeston Houses Albert Road Peckham in the County of Surrey spinster.

I revoke all prior Wills and Testamentary writings heretofore made by me. I appoint Henry Roberts of No 199 Grove-Lane Denmark Hill in the County of Surrey Stationer and Henry Charles Baker of No 1 Harris Street Southampton Street Camberwell in the County of Surrey Engine Driver to be the EXECUTORS of this my Will. I give the chest of drawers and couch which was formerly the property of Mrs Joseph Smith to my Executor Henry Roberts.

I give my chair covered with needlework to my friend Arthur Roberts and as to all the remainder of my household furniture and other household effects I direct my Executors to divide the same between my niece Mary Baker the wife of the said Henry Charles Baker my nephew Charles Frederick Read and Elizabeth Read the widow of my nephew Mark Read my Executors decision as to the division shall be final.

I bequeath the following pecuniary legacies:

- *To my great niece Florence Read Ten pounds*
- *To my great niece Millie Read Ten pounds*
- *To my great niece Mary Baker Thirty pounds*
- *To the said Elizabeth Read Widow Forty pounds*
- *To Sophia Wade Widow of my cousin John Wade Eighteen pounds*
- *To my second cousin Alice Hunt the Wife of James Hunt Twenty pounds*
- *To my friend Martha Roberts the wife of the said Henry Roberts Fourteen pounds*
- *To my friend Frederick Henry Roberts Ten pounds*
- *To my friend Emily Roberts (Spinster) Ten pounds*
- *To my friend Elizabeth Copner (Spinster) Twelve pounds*
- *To my friend the said Arthur Roberts Twelve pounds*
- *To my friend Mrs Sarah Norman of 30 Coleman Street City Ten pounds*
- *To my Executor the said Henry Roberts Sixteen pounds*
- *To my Executor the said Henry Charles Baker Ten pounds*

And as to the rest residue and remainder of my real and personal estate I devise and bequeath the same unto my niece the said Mary Baker the Wife of the said Henry Charles Baker and my nephew the said Charles Frederick Read but the said Mary Baker is to receive Twenty pounds more of the residue of my real and personal estate than the said Charles Frederick Read.

IN WITNESS I have hereunto set my hand this Seventh day of July One thousand nine hundred and nine – ANN READ – Signed by the Testatrix Ann Read as her last Will and Testament in the presence of us present at the same time who at her request in her sight and presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses – W T FAIRBROTHER Clerk to E W Sampson Solicitor Woolwich – EMMA ROBERTS 3 Beestons Houses Albert Road Peckham Spinster.

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THIS IS A CODICIL to the above written Will of me ANN READ of Number 1 Beeston Houses Albert Road Peckham in the County of Surrey Spinster which Will bears date the Seventh day of July One thousand nine hundred and nine

- *I revoke the legacy of Eighteen pounds given to Sophia Wade*
- *I revoke the legacy of Twenty pounds given by me to Alice Hunt*
- *I revoke the legacy of Fourteen pounds given by me to Martha Roberts*
- *I revoke the legacy of the legacy of Ten Pounds given by me to Frederick Henry Roberts*
- *I revoke the legacy of Twelve pounds given by me to Elizabeth Copner*
- *I revoke the legacy of Twelve pounds and my chair covered in needlework given by me to Arthur Roberts*
- *I revoke the legacy of Ten pounds given by me to Mrs Sarah Norman*

and instead of the legacies revoked I give and bequeath the following pecuniary legacies

- *To the said Sophia Wade Ten pounds*
- *To the said Alice Hunt Ten pounds*
- *To the said Martha Roberts Ten pounds*
- *To the said Elizabeth Copner Six pounds and*
- *To the said Mrs Sarah Norman Five pounds*

I give my chair covered in needlework to my Executor Henry Roberts

And I confirm my said Will in all other respects IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of November One thousand nine hundred and twelve – ANN READ – Signed by the said Ann read as a Codicil to her last Will in the presence of us present at the same time who at her request in her sight and presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses – W R FAIRBROTHER Clerk to Mr E W Sampson Solicitor Woolwich – EMMA ROBERTS 3 Beeston Houses Albert Road Peckham Spinster.

On 31 March 1916 Probate of this Will and one Codicil was granted to Henry Roberts and Henry Charles Baker the Executors.

The layout of the office copy of these documents has been edited to make their contents easier to follow.